

Message Text

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16

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 OMB-01 IO-14 AID-20 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 PC-10 DRC-01 /164 W

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R 261649Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8189

INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABIDJAN 3271

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IV, NG

SUBJECT: NIGERIEN DELEGATION VISITS IVORY COAST

1. THREE-MAN NIGERIEN MILITARY DELEGATION HEADED BY CIVIL SERVICE MINISTER MAJOR IDRISSE AROUNA AND INCLUDING CAPTAIN BAGNON BEIDOU ARRIVED ABIDJAN EVENING APRIL 25. MET BY CIVIL SERVICE MINISTER TADJO EHOUE, PRESIDENTIAL PROTOCOL CHIEF OUEGNIN, AND FONMIN SEC GEN POLNEAU, AROUNA TOLD PRESS HE WAS HERE TO DELIVER MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY FROM LT. COL. SEYNI KOUNTCHE. HE INDICATED THAT ALL WAS CALM IN NIGER AND THAT NEW GOVERNMENT WILL DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT IT WILL BE REPRESENTED AT OCAM SUMMIT IN BANGUI.

2. AFTER MEETING WITH HOUPHOUET IN MID-MORNING APRIL 26,

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AROUNA SAID HE DESCRIBED TO HIM REASONS FOR THE COUP, EXPRESSED

HOPE THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES WILL REMAIN CLOSE, AND PLEDGED THAT NIGER WILL CONTINUE TO BE FAITHFUL TO AGREEMENTS SIGNED WITH ITS FRIENDS.

3. WITH THIS MORNING'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT, EMBASSY BELIEVES THERE NO QUESTION THAT GOIC NOW PREPARED TO WORK WITH NEW NIGERIEN GOVERNMENT. ATTITUDE HERE HAS CLEARLY CHANGED FROM ONE OF ALMOST SHOCK AT OVERTHROW OF DIORI AND KILLING OF MADAME DIORI TO AN ACCEPTANCE OF SITUATION AND THE ADMISSION THAT PERHAPS ALL WAS NOT ROSES IN NIGER UNDER FORMER PRESIDENT'S RULE.

4. ONE PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR, WELL PLUGGED INTO HOUPHOUET, WAS ASKED APRIL 25 BY A FRIENDLY DIPLOMAT WHETHER HOUPHOUET WOULD ALLOW DIORI TO COME HERE TO LIVE. HE REPLIED RATHER EMPHATICALLY THAT DIORI WILL GO TO NIGERIA RATHER THAN IVORY COAST IF ALLOWED TO LEAVE NIGER.

5. EMBASSY UNAWARE WHETHER NIGERIEN DELEGATION ALSO MEETING DURING ABIDJAN STAY WITH ENTENTE SECGEN KAYA. HOWEVER, WE UNDERSTAND KAYA HAS TAKEN POSITION HE IS NOT GOING TO PUSH NEW NIGERIEN LEADERS INTO JOINING OTHER MEMBERS IN ON-GOING SERIES OF MEETINGS BUT PREFERS FOR THEM TO COME AROUND ON OWN VOLITION, EVEN IF THIS MEANS SOME DELAY IN ENTENTE ACTIVITIES.
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